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Poland: Mass promotions of ranking military officers indicate that a reshuffle of key personnel is under way in the Defense Ministry.

Defense Minister Jaruzelski and one of his deputies were among those promoted on 9 October, the eve of the army's 25th anniversary. Both were made full generals. A number of other key officers in the ministry were promoted to lieutenant general. Most of them had moved to the ministry from lesser commands in the past year.

Twenty-three colonels were promoted to brigadier general. This may foreshadow a reshuffle in the lower echelons of the Defense Ministry and in the field commands. Some of the newly appointed generals may be slated for assignment to the Warsaw Pact staff in Moscow. A new Pact staff is being created there, [redacted]
If this account is true, similar military appointments from other Warsaw Pact members actively loyal to Moscow can be expected.

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The appointment of so large a number of new generals may also mean, however, that some will replace officers judged politically unreliable or officers who reportedly are leaving the ministry voluntarily for politically less exposed positions. Over the past 18 months the party leadership has been reported to be concerned over manifestations of nationalism among the military. On several occasions in the past, ranking officers have taken issue with Gomulka's strongly pro-Soviet policies.

A Soviet military delegation including Defense Minister Grechko, Warsaw Pact commander Yakubovsky, and the Soviet Army's political chief, Yepishev, arrived in Warsaw yesterday. The group ostensibly is to take part in the Polish Army's anniversary celebrations. [redacted]

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